who perish at sea is to be immediately erected adjacent to the Claddagh school, Galway.

The foundation-stone of a new military church and schools at Birr has been laid.

Mr. Dargan has contributed an additional 6,000*l.* towards the Dublin Industrial Exhibition.

At Galway the Board of Works are reclaiming a large piece of ground with the rubbish from the excavations of the river, and it is proposed to build thereon. The tract of marsh, &c. between the Terryland embankment and the Wood Quay is being converted into a spacious plain.

The tunnels at Downhill, on the Londonderry and Coleraine Railway are being cleared out, and roofed with bricks. The rock near Magelligan is to be removed, and blasting operations are being proceeded with.

Recent additions have been made to the college of St. Columba, near Rathfarnham, Dublin, and it is intended to expend 11,000*l.* more on further new buildings, which will consist of a chapel 65 ft. by 30 ft. with windows in the flanks between buttresses, and having at extremity a gable with five-light window of *Geometric* period, and at the angles pinnacled buttresses. A hall, 60 ft. by 22 ft. with piazza off same is to be added, and also a school-room, 75 ft. by 30 ft. The dormitories are to accommodate ninety students. By the new buildings a quadrangle, with arcades of pointed arches at three sides, will be formed. Central between the chapel and school-room, the entrance-tower of a square form, flanked with buttresses, and pierced at intervals with windows, is situated. The architect is Mr. Hardwicke, and the builder, Mr. Moyers, of Dublin. Style, Early Gothic.

Two new school-houses are being erected at Glan, county Galway, and buildings of a similar class have been lately erected in this locality. About five miles from Clifden a large building for ecclesiastical and scholastic purposes, to accommodate 500 persons, has been erected.

A new terminus is about being built at Drogheda by the railway company. Mr. G. Papworth, architect.

New school-houses have been erected at Cleggan, Roundstone, Derrygimla, Aillbrack, and Errislaunore. Model farms are attached to some of these establishments.

The Board of Ordnance intend enlarging the Military Chapel at the Royal Hospital, Dublin.

The foundation-stone of a new Wesleyan Church, minister's residence, and school-house, at Rathmines, county Dublin, has been laid.

The Packet-station Commissioners have decided in favour of Foynes as the transatlantic *Irish* port, and propose to be built there a jetty near the present harbour (ensuring a depth of 20 feet at low-water spring tides); also a small rubble breakwater from south-east side of Foynes Island and floating lights off Scattery Island. Mr. Gibbons, harbour engineer, proposed to prolong Eastern Pier into 22 feet of water of the chart, and extend its front laterally 150 feet eastward. This is estimated to cost 3,600*l.* Mr. Long, district engineer, submitted a plan, showing a pier on western side, and a groyne from Foynes, at an estimated cost of 45,000*l.* Mr. Rendall submitted another plan. A modification of Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Long's plan is proposed by the commissioners, and will probably cost 12,000*l.* Two plans were submitted by Mr. Roberts, of Galway, in favour of that port—one estimated at 227,000*l.* the other at 155,600*l.*—but the commissioners were of opinion that the latter works did not provide the required accommodation. A line of railway, at a cost of 4,011*l.* per mile, is proposed to connect Foynes harbour with Limerick. To render Tarbert available, a floating-dock, with an outlay of 77,000*l.* is required.

The Birmingham Society of Artists have awarded the prize of sixty guineas offered to the artist of the best picture contributed to their exhibition, to E. M. Ward, A.R.A. for his picture of "Charlotte Corday going to Execution." The jury accompanied their award with an expression of their high appreciation of the merits of Mr. Millais' "Ophelia."

THE "PEOPLE'S PALACE" AT SYDENHAM.

The directors of this undertaking have issued a little pamphlet, stating "what has been done, and what will be done," addressed to intending exhibitors. It is scarcely important enough for its object.

The works are progressing; and last week the ground-work for fountains, &c. was let. These promise to be of a remarkable character. The basin for the principal fountain will be 400 feet in diameter, and will include, besides the central jet of 200 feet, numerous other jets of great size and height around it. It is only right to mention that the entire superintendence of the construction of the building is placed in the hands of Mr. Charles H. Wild, who had previously proved his competency in Hyde-park.

Although the design as it now stands will be a great improvement, externally, on the original structure, much more might be made of it. Sir Charles Barry, it appears, feels this so strongly, that, from national feeling alone, he submitted sketches and suggestions for its advantage some time ago, consisting mainly of an enormous dome at the intersection of the central transept, and lesser domes at the intersection of the other transepts. A mighty dome of glass reflecting the dazzling lustre of a bright sun, amidst the beautiful landscape in which the building is to stand, would certainly produce a wonderful effect. The proposed additions it was found, as we are told, would cost a large sum, and delay the completion of the works beyond the time fixed for opening, and on these grounds it seems the directors declined adopting them.

Two new lines of railway are projected to run to the intended "palace." One, the "Vauxhall and Sydenham," is to proceed from the South-Western Railway, at Vauxhall, through Clapham-rise, Herne-hill, &c. to the Dartmouth Arms Station on the Brighton Railway. The other, "The West-end of London and Crystal Palace Line," is proposed to commence at a new station on the Surrey side of the Thames close to the new Battersea-park bridge (with a possible station at Millbank), and thence proceed through Clapham, Brixton, &c. to the building itself. It appears somewhat strange that, while in the latter the directors of the "Crystal Palace Company" take part, in the first their contractors, Messrs. Fox and Henderson, are advertised as having agreed to construct the line, and to guarantee a return for fourteen years. This seems to show less unanimity than is desirable.

SIGHTS AND SCENERY.

Princess's Theatre.—Those who know *Mont St. Michel*, in Normandy, will remember what good opportunities it affords to the artist in quest of picturesque effects, and in bringing out a melodrama having this celebrated rock-castle for its name and scene Mr. Kean has not lost sight of them. The village of St. Jean, with the mount in the distance, is charmingly painted (by Gordon), and introduces a clever dance of Normandy girls in red petticoats and white aprons, evidently born of Oscar Byrn. A scene in the Chateau de Rochemont, where the soldiers of Cardinal Mazarin are destroying the furniture (in the style of the soldiers of the Commonwealth, to whom their dresses give them too strong a resemblance), has some good effects of light and some clever groupings; and the last scene, the sands under a mist, which clears off to brilliant sunrise, is creditable to Mr. Dayes. Mr. Wright, who made his first appearance here, was very funny, but has not a part with which much may be done.

The Adelphi Theatre has opened with "The Green Bushes," which should be called "The Ever-green Bushes," being always in season. The author of this piece once told us of a sailor who, after seeing it, travelled to America, and on his return, going to the Adelphi, found the same piece on the bills; and then a second voyage, and again the same play when he came back. It well deserves its popularity: full of incident and striking situations, the characters are true to nature, and afford opportunities for some excellent acting. Fun and pathos, the ordinary and the picturesque, are duly blended, and there is withal little to mar the effect even with the fastidious. As respects that with which we more immediately concern ourselves,—the scene where the faithless lover is dying, with his wife leaning over him, and Miami stands on a headland against the troubled sky, is an admirable picture, full of poetry. The audience warmly welcomed Madame Celeste on her return from America.

Dioramas.—Mr. Prout's Diorama of the *Gold Fields of Australia*, which was opened some time ago in the building next to the Polytechnic Institution, has much very excellent painting, especially in the sea views, and the painter of it who knows the country personally, gives much information that will be found useful by those who contemplate an excursion to the "diggins."——The Diorama of *The Holy Land*, at the Egyptian Hall, has rushed into new popularity, and is daily and nightly crowded. The intrinsic excellence of this work is aided by the introduction of native songs and music.——*The Wellington Campaigns*, at the Gallery of Illustration, is invested with fresh though melancholy interest by the death of its hero. A very short time before this occurred, the Duke visited the gallery, and made many valuable remarks in the hearing of the expositor, who now gives the audience the advantage of them.

DETAILS, PALAZZO AGOSTINO, PISA.

In completion of our illustration of the palace, we now give details of the windows and other parts, which are all in moulded brick.

The Palazzo Agostino is its own chronicler, for all historic records of it or its founders are consigned to oblivion. It was commenced about the beginning of the fifteenth century, when Pisa first began to feel the vengeance of the Florentine Republic, and when, after a protracted siege, it was sacked by them, and 200 of its nobles exiled to various parts of the Mediterranean, and this fatal dispersion, and a following century of oppression, no doubt prevented its completion: it wants the upper story, and one-third of its façade.

The details exhibit a cherished longing for the classic past, though unable to resist the then present power of Lombard feeling the more strongly impressed upon the Pisan mind, inasmuch as the Milanese and Lombards had for some short while before been the nominal defenders and virtual rulers of their city.

The material is a rich red clay, beautifully worked, the principal ornaments being finished *by hand, after they had left the mould*, which imparts a freedom and brilliancy usually lacking in moulded ornament, and basking as they do, in the sunshine on the *Lung'Arno*, the foliage seems to curl and crisp for very love of light and sunshine. The ground-floor is now used as the *Caffé del' Ussero*, the first floor as the *Stanza Ciriche*, and the remainder let off in numerous tenancies.

G. T. Robinson.

Builders' Benevolent Institution.—We particularly desire to draw the attention of our readers to the fact, that the fifth annual dinner of this thriving institution is to be held on Thursday, the 14th inst. at the London Tavern. Mr. Peto, M.P. will be in the chair, and there is already a good array of stewards. We hope that the trade in particular will well support Mr. Peto, and respond liberally to the appeal on the part of the charity, so as to enable it to have another early election of pensioners, and to increase the number to twenty at least. There are only fifteen at present on the funds, and there were nineteen candidates at the election in May, of whom three only could be elected, thereby leaving sixteen disappointed. The young institution has done wonders, but not so much as it ought, if we consider the immense number of affluent men who are connected with the building trade. Such an institution ought to become in a few years the largest and richest in the metropolis.

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